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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/773,817	02/05/2004	Brian Yu	MAT 3K2	8268
23581	7590	07/11/2005		
KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C. 520 S.W. YAMHILL STREET SUITE 200 PORTLAND, OR 97204			EXAMINER MENDIRATTA, VISHU K	
			ART UNIT 3711	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SP

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/773,817	Applicant(s) YU ET AL.	
	Examiner Vishu K. Mendiratta	Art Unit 3711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, ⁵⁻⁹~~8,12,19~~, 19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Denoual (6446969).

Claims 1,3,5,7-9,19: Denoual teaches a plurality of moveable pieces (12) having alignment indicia (black and white colors) on opposite sides, directional indicia (12w, 12b white and black rings), a playing surface marked for spaces (Fig.1A) in a grid and spaces adjacent. Game pieces reversed to change the directional indicia for a different player from black to white (abstract).

Claims 2, 6: Denoual teaches variations in aesthetics of the game (10:24-36) including shape, size, material and indicia graphics. Denoual teaches a flat surface on top of pieces. Denoual in this manner teaches aesthetic variation of game pieces.

3. Claims 10-16, 18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Denoual (6446969).

Claim 10,13,14: Denoual teaches a plurality of moveable pieces (12) having alignment indicia (black and white colors) on opposite sides, directional indicia (12w, 12b white and black rings), a playing surface marked for spaces (Fig.1A) in a grid and spaces adjacent.

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Denoual teaches arranging game pieces on the board (Fig.1) and manipulating (capturing) an opponent game pieces by reversing to change the directional indicia for a different player from opponent piece to own piece.

Claim 11: Only one side of the piece visible when placed on board (Fig.1).

Claim 12,15,16,18: Game pieces moving on empty spaces according to the direction on game pieces (Fig.13,14).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4, 17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denoual in view of Chittenden (3155391).

Denoual teaches all limitation including variations in aesthetics/indicia on game pieces.

However the applicant might argue that Denoual does not expressly indicate a directional indicia on a game piece as arrow.

Chittenden teaches arrows on game pieces for direction (56).

Whereas any kind of indicia can be used for direction, an arrow more clearly indicates the direction. For the purpose of indicating direction without any confusion, it would have been obvious to use an arrow as indicia.

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One of ordinary skill in art at the time the invention was made would have used arrows as indicia on pieces.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. 6109609,4778188,4715605,4299391.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vishu K. Mendiratta whose telephone number is (571) 272-4426. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Vidovich can be reached on (571) 272-4415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Vishu K Mendiratta
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3711



VKM
July 8, 2005